



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
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STEPHEN R. PRITCHARD
SECRETARY

November 3, 2005

Rebecca L. Sherer, PE
Tighe and Bond
53 Southampton Road
Westfield, MA 01085

Re: Russell Biomass, EOE #13635

Dear Ms. Sherer,

The MEPA office is in receipt of your email dated November 3, 2005 requesting an explanation of a provision in the Certificate on the Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) that was issued on the Russell Biomass Power Plant (EOEA #13635) on October 31, 2005.

The first paragraph on page 6 of the Certificate reads: "Should the proponent choose to deviate from the fuel source specified in the Special Permit, or in any other way from the project as proposed in the EENF, the proponent will be required to file a Notice of Project Change (NPC) pursuant to Section 11.10 of the MEPA regulations and may undergo further environmental review." In response to your request, this letter formally clarifies that statement, as follows.

Because the scope of MEPA's jurisdiction derives from state agency action, the potential subsequent MEPA review must be predicated on the terms of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Comprehensive Air Plan Approval permit. DEP has stated that it will review the proponent's Comprehensive Air Plan Approval application with the understanding that the only wood fuel for this project will be derived from clean by-products of the forest industry. DEP has also stated in its comments that the use of other sources of wood-derived fuel will require re-evaluation of the subject project. Therefore, if a fuel source is proposed other than that described in the EENF, as qualified by DEP in its comment letter to be derived from clean by-products of the forest industry, the proponent will be required to file a Notice of Project Change (NPC) pursuant to Section 11.10 of the MEPA regulations and may undergo further environmental review.

Please contact Briony Angus, MEPA Analyst at (617) 626-1029 if you have any questions about this letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephen R. Pritchard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Pritchard" clearly distinguishable.

Stephen R. Pritchard

Cc: Dave Howland, DEP WERO
William Hull, Hull Forest Products
Peter Bos, Russell Biomass LLC
James Ramsey, Russell Biomass LLC
Town of Russell

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